

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02807 251313Z

50

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 /026 W

----- 102398

R 251250Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2053

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 2807

FOR PA/HO FRANKLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJ: REVISION OF COMPILATION -- PUBLIC ACCESS TO SYRIAN
DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES

REF: STATE 228323

1. SINCE YOUR INITIAL INQUIRY WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING QUESTION OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF SYRIA'S DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES. GIVEN FLEDGLING STAGE OF OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH SARG, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO MOVE CAREFULLY ON REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, EVEN THOUGH, AS WITH THIS QUESTION, SUCH CARE MAY ENTAIL SOME DELAY. FYI, QUESTIONS SUCH AS THIS WHICH TOUCH ON HOW SARG OPERATES ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AND SUBJECT TO SOME MISUNDERSTANDING BY THOSE SYRIANS WHO REMAIN SUSPICIOUS ABOUT OUR "REAL" ACTIVITIES.

2. THUS, EMBASSY SENT NOTE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTER RECEIPT OF A-6360 (AUGUST 12, 1974). (FYI, THERE WAS NO AMERICAN REPRESENTATION WHEN ORIGINAL AIRGRAM SENT LAST YEAR.) EMBOFF MADE ORAL PRESENTATION ON NOVEMBER 24, INDICATING OUR LAW REQUIRES WE PUBLISH SUCH INFORMATION. DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN DEPARTMENT, HAMMOUD SHOULFI, UNDERTOOK TO GET REPLY. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION SHOULFI INDICATED NOTE HAD TOUCHED ON ISSUE CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED BY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02807 251313Z

SPECIAL TASK FORCE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ACCORDING

TO SHOEFI, FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN STORING ITS FILES FOR ALMOST 25 YEARS IN APARTMENT OF NEARBY BUILDING; BUT ALAS THAT APARTMENT UNABLE TAKE ONE ADDITIONAL BOX. SHOEFI SAID CURRENTLY EXISTING ARCHIVES WERE NOTHING MORE THAT CARDBOARD BOXES STUFFED WITH PAPERS WITH NO ORGANIZATION AND THAT NOT EVEN SARG EMPLOYEE WOULD BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE DOCUMENT NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED. SPECIAL TASK FORCE, WHICH WAS TRYING TO DECIDE HOW TO RESOLVE STORAGE PROBLEM WITHOUT RENTING ANOTHER APARTMENT, IS NOW, IN VIEW OF OUR NOTE, TRYING TO REACH RECOMMENDATION ON SETTING UP FORMAL AND USEABLE ARCHIVES AND ON ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS.

3. IN SUMMARY, BASED ON CONVERSATION ONLY, EMBASSY BELIEVES NO FORMAL REGULATIONS EXIST ON ACCESS TO SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC RECORDS; BUT WE MAY LEARN, SUBSEQUENT TO OUR ORAL DEMARCHE, WHAT APPLICATION PROCEDURES MIGHT BE FOLLOWED IF SCHOLAR WERE INTERESTED IN REQUESTING ACCESS TO ARCHIVES FOR SPECIAL PROJECT. ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL WHEN RECEIVED.

MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, ARCHIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02807
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-0581
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741116/aaaaamuz.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 228323
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVISION OF COMPILATION -- PUBLIC ACCESS TO SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005